

FSU wins in bottom of 9th

By Steve Ellis

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With starting pitcher Mike Bell thinking about the Florida State's previous game, and everyone else looking to the Seminoles' upcoming series with Miami, FSU's baseball team struggled in the present tense Wednesday night at Howser Stadium.

The No. 2 Seminoles (35-9) got clutch relief pitching from junior Charlie Cruz and a two-out sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth inning by Doug Mientkiewicz to edge Mercer 5-4.

Cruz bailed out starter Mike Bell in the fifth. After Bell gave up eight hits in 4½ innings, Cruz held Mercer hitless over the next 4½ innings in his longest stint as a Seminole. David Yocum (4-1) picked up the win.

"I don't think after what happened (in FSU's 11-0 win Tuesday night) he thought they were capable of doing what they did," FSU coach Mike Martin said of Bell. "I don't think he was really into it because (of Tuesday night).

"And I definitely caught a sense of anticipation for the weekend (ahead). To be honest, I had a little bit of that, too."

The Seminoles travel to Miami for a three-game series against the No. 5 Hurricanes beginning Friday.

FSU fell behind 3-2 in the second inning on Jon Hanson's two-run homer. Mercer extend the lead to 4-2 against Bell in the third inning before a sluggish FSU tied the score in its half of the third inning when starter John Dudek experienced control problems. He walked in one run and brought another home by walking Colby Weaver.

The Seminoles had just five hits against Mercer after collecting 12 in the big win on Tuesday. But the work of Cruz allowed FSU to get away with the win.

"Charlie Cruz did a great job in pitching four scoreless innings," Martin said.

Cruz said: "It gives me a lot of confidence going into Miami. I thought I had my slider going tonight."

Notes

■ Link Jarrett, with a double in the third inning, has hit in 16 straight games. That's the longest hitting

streak for any Seminole in two seasons. Jarrett's hit momentarily put his batting average over .300, quite a feat considering he started his season 0 for 25. Jarrett is hitting over .440 during the streak. He will enter the Miami series hitting .299.

■ Jeremy Morris is headed in a different direction. He has just one hit, a double, in his last 16 at-bats.

Mercer					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Hanson cf	4	1	1	2	Jarrett ss	3	2	1	1
Izenhower ss	5	0	0	0	Martin 3b	4	0	1	0
McElroy 2b	4	0	2	0	Mntkwcz 1b	2	2	1	2
Phillips 1b	4	1	3	1	Hodges rf	3	0	1	1
Magistro lf	2	0	0	0	Weaver c	1	0	0	1
Florence lf	0	0	0	0	Buttery dh	3	0	0	1
Goff 3b	2	1	0	0	Morris lf	4	0	0	0
JSmith dh	4	0	1	0	Schroeffel cf	4	1	1	0
MSmith c	3	0	0	1	Lopez 2b	2	0	0	0
Prince rf	3	1	1	0					
Totals	31	4	8	4	Totals	26	5	5	5
Mercer					031 000 000—4				
Florida State					202 000 001—5				

Two outs when winning run scored.

E—Goff. DP—Mercer 4, FSU 1. LOB—Mercer 7, FSU 8. 2B—Phillips, JSmith, Martin, Jarrett. 3B—Hodges. HR—Hanson (4), Phillips (4). SB—Jarrett (10). S—Lopez. SF—MSmith, Mientkiewicz.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Mercer						
Dudek	3	3	4	4	5	3
Hanson L, 1-1	5½	2	1	1	4	3
Barefield	½	0	0	0	1	0
Florida State						
Bell	4½	8	4	4	4	3
Cruz	4½	0	0	0	2	7
Yocum W, 4-1	½	0	0	0	0	0

WP—Bell. HBP—Weaver (by Dudek). U—Hayes (HP), Corren (1B), Ravan (3B). T—2:52. A—725.